

September 23, 2020

DISSEMINATION BY THE LIVINGSTON GROUP, LLC

FARA registration #6344

The Livingston Group represents the San Francisco Zion Church, an independent US church that is associated with the Shincheonji Church of Jesus, a Christian denomination founded in South Korea in 1984.

As a new and growing denomination, Shincheonji has become prey to misrepresentation and discrimination by mainstream churches and the secular media. Church members are subject to hate speech, organized propaganda, forcible deprogramming, and extreme violence. With the outbreak of COVID-19, persecution of the Shincheonji is intensifying in South Korea and is critically impacting US citizens that are members of associated churches. As US citizens we are interested in the confidentiality of the private membership data of overseas congregants provided to South Korean authorities.

The United States works to protect religious liberty and to defend people of faith around the world. Amidst COVID-19, the US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) has condemned the stigmatization of religious minorities around the world, including in South Korea.

On behalf of the San Francisco Zion Church, we are working to raise awareness of the misrepresentation and discrimination of the Shincheonji and related privacy concerns of US citizens, and to encourage dialogue on these issues.

THE LIVINGSTON GROUP PROVIDES REPRESENTATION FOR THE SAN FRANCISCO ZION CHURCH, A CHURCH ASSOCIATED WITH THE SHINCHEONJI CHURCH OF JESUS. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE AT THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, WASHINGTON, DC.